

(Translation)

## INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- vs -

APAKI, Sadao, et al.

A F F I D A V I T

Deponent: ARITA, Hachiro.

Date of birth: September 21, 1884.

Domicile: 991 Yoyogi Nishihara, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

Having first duly sworn an oath on the attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

(1) Being appointed as diplomat eleve on December 28, 1909, I held posts in the Japanese Foreign Office. I was appointed Foreign Minister in the HIROTA Cabinet on April 2, 1936, and resigned on February 2, 1937. After that, I assumed the office of Foreign Minister successively in the KONOYE and the HIPANUMA Cabinets during the period from October, 1938, to August, 1939, and in the YONAI Cabinet from January, 1940, to July of the same year.

(2) Early in August, 1937, at my summer villa on Lake Yamanaka, Yamanashi Prefecture, I received a telegram from Foreign Minister HIROTA to the effect that he wished to see me promptly. I went up to Tokyo immediately, and called at the official residence of the Foreign Minister.

Mr. HIROTA spoke about his hard application in working out remedial measures for the collision between the Japanese and Chinese forces at Marco Polo Bridge, and then revealed his opinion as follows:

"It is necessary to attain an amicable settlement of the present case as quickly as possible, but, unfortunately, our efforts thus far have not obtained the expected results yet. Moreover, it is hardly possible now to seize proper chances for an amicable settlement of the case, since the direct liaison with the leaders of the Nationalist Government under CHIANG, Kai-shek, has been lost owing to their withdrawal to Nanking. Nevertheless, it is our earnest desire that negotiations be opened in some way or other in order to bring the matter to a prompt settlement. Hereupon, I cannot but hope that such a person as you, who have a career of ex-Foreign Minister, would go to Shanghai and stay there for the present. Shanghai is an international city, where gather the leaders of the various parties in China, including the Kwomintang of CHIANG, Kai-shek, and it is believed that they also desire for a peaceful settlement of the matter. In view of these facts, I expect that they may possibly approach you with a view to peaceful settlement, and open the way for negotiations. This I expect from the bottom of my heart."

On this 21st day of August, 1947, at Tokyo.

(Signed) ARITA, Hachiro (Seal)

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above-mentioned date and place.

(Signed) MORISHIMA, Goro (Seal)

Witness

O A T H

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth, withholding nothing and adding nothing.

(Signed) ARITA, Hachiro (Seal)

Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs KRESTINSKI on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.

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Speaking in this way, he requested me to follow his thought and visit Shanghai without any specific mission, to stay there for the present. I sympathized with him in that awkward predicament, and actually recognized more or less significance in his proposal. Nevertheless, I wondered if my visit to Shanghai would be opportune, in consideration of the situation in and out of the country. I considered it would be regrettable if my visit there might produce a result against our objective, and told him my thought, asking him to wait until the following day for my answer of acceptance or refusal. I requested, further, that he also should reconsider if the time was opportune or not.

(3) When I met Mr. HIROTA on the following day, he had not given up the hope and zeal of the preceding day, and earnestly persuaded me to go to Shanghai. I was moved by his zeal. As to the point of time, I had more or less misgivings about it still. I thought, however, it was not proper that I, out of office, should hold fast to my own opinion. Since Mr. HIROTA, who was actually in the office of Foreign Minister, maintained it so persistently, I should have obeyed his observation and judgment. And, thus, I accepted his offer.

(4) I immediately set about selecting proper persons to take with me and arranging for my travel to Shanghai. At the same time, I considered it necessary to ascertain the intention of the Ministers of War and the Navy in connection with the peace terms which was said to have been decided among the superior heads of the Government, and, one day, met the Minister of the Navy who was an old acquaintance of mine. Though I do not remember the particulars about the peace terms exactly, the Minister of the Navy affirmed all of them. Especially, I remember it clearly that he positively affirmed the term of "no reparation", and expressed to me his firm resolution to carry it through.

(5) Everything in arrangement was ready, and I was about to start for Shanghai, when, one day late in August, I was asked by Mr. HIROTA to postpone my departure for a while. I purposely avoided to inquire into his reasons, but I felt it unpleasant to stay in Tokyo in an indefinite status, since I had made up my mind to go to Shanghai and completed all necessary arrangements. I, thereupon, proposed to start on the arranged day for a tour of inspection through North Manchuria and North China, as I had had an earnest desire to know the recent situation in these areas. In case the circumstances in Tokyo were changed and the obstacle to my visit to Shanghai was removed, the Foreign Minister could order me by wire to go directly to Shanghai. Mr. HIROTA agreed to it.

(6) Thereupon, I left Tokyo on August 28 for North Manchuria, and then visited Peking and Tientsin to inspect the state of affairs there. The awaited notice from the Foreign Minister, however, was not received after all. I returned to Japan on board the Nekka Maru, leaving Dairen on September 21.

On this 21st day of August, 1947, at Tokyo.

(Signed) ARITA, Hachiro (Seal)

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above-mentioned date and place.

(Signed) MORISHIMA, Goro (Seal)

Witness

O A T H

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth, withholding nothing and adding nothing.

(Signed) ARITA, Hachiro (Seal)

Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs ARISTONOV on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.



Def, Doo 2150

Exh, NO

*Handwritten signature/initials*

ノ如ク供述致シマス

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ヅ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次

宣誓供述書

供述者

東京都澁谷區代々木西原町九二一  
有田八郎  
明治十七年九月廿一日生

荒木貞夫其他

對

亞米利加合衆國其他

極東國際軍事裁判所

Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs MEDVEDEV on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.

一、自分ハ一九〇九年十二月廿八日領事官補ニ任セラレ、爾來引續キ外務  
 省ニ奉職シ一九三六年四月二日廣田内閣ノ外務大臣ニ任セラレ一九三  
 七年二月二日之ヲ辭職シタ、又其ノ後一九三八年十月乃至一九三九年  
 八月、近衛内閣及平沼内閣ノ外務大臣デアリ更ニ一九四〇年一月乃至  
 同年七月米内内閣ノ外務大臣デアッタ  
 二、一九三七年八月初旬當時山中湖畔ニ避暑中ノ自分ハ廣田外務大臣ヨリ  
 至急面會シ度旨ノ招電ニ接シテ直ニ上京外相官邸ヲ訪問シタ  
 廣田氏ハ蘆溝橋ニ於ケル日華衝突事件ノ善後措置ニ關スル苦心ヲ語リ  
 タル後「今回ノ事件ハ成ル可ク速ヤカニ和平ニ之ヲ解決スルコト必要  
 ナルモ不幸ニシテ今日マデノ努力ハ效果ヲ擧グルニ至ラズ而カモ最近  
 ハ蔣介石政府關係要人ノ南京ヘノ後退ニ因リ之ト直接接觸スルノ途ヲ  
 失ヒタルタメ和平解決ノ機會ヲ捕フルコトガ出來ナイ何等カノ方法ニ  
 ヲツテ速カニ接衝ノ途ヲ開キ急速ナル和平解決ニ導クヨウニシタイ、  
 ソコデ自分ハ貴下ノ如キ前外相ノ經歷ヲ有スル者ガ此際上海ニ赴キ當  
 分滞在シテ居レバ同地ガ蔣介石政府要人ヲ含ム中國各黨各派ノ人々ノ  
 集合スルトコロデアリ又其ノ國際的都市タルノ性質ニ願ミ我々ト同様  
 和平解決ヲ欲シテ居ルト思ハル蔣介石氏側ヨリ接觸ヲ求メ來リ交接  
 ノ端緒ガ開ケルニ至ルカモ知レナイト思ツテ居ル、自分ハ衷心之ヲ期  
 待シテ居ルノデアルカラ、ソウ云フ自分ノ氣持ヲ汲ンデ其際ブラハ、ト

Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs MEDVEDEV on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.



上海ニ赴キ當分同地ニ滞在シテ様子ヲ見テ實ヒ度イト思フガ如何ト  
ノ話デアッタ  
自分ハ廣田氏ノ苦衷ヲ察シ又全民ノ案ニ相當ノ意義ヲ認メナクハナカ  
ツタガ内務ノ情勢カラ考ヘ自分ノ上海行ガ時期ノ點カラ果シテ適當ナ  
リヤ否ヤ自分ノ此際ノ上海行ガ却ツテ目的ニ反スルガ如キ結果ヲ生ズ  
ルコトガアツテハ心外デアルト思ツタノデ其ノ意味ヲ告ゲ翌日迄諸否  
ノ同登ヲ保留シテ其ノ間懸慮シテ見ルコトトシ尙ホ廣田氏ニモ特ニ時  
期ノ點ニツキ更ニ考ヘテ見テ實ヒ度イト頼ンデ置イタ  
三、翌日廣田氏ニ面會シタトコロ同氏ハ前日ノ希望ト熱意トヲ捨テズ自分  
ノ上海行ヲ主張シテ止マナカツタノデ自分ハ其ノ熱意ニ動かサレ又時  
期ノ點ニツキテ尙ホ多少ノ懸念ヲ抱カナイ譯デハナカツタガ之等ノ點  
ニツイテハ在野ノ自分ガ自說ヲ固執スルコトハ適當デナイ廣田氏ガ斯  
ク迄ニ云フ以上寧ろ外相ノ地位ニ在ル廣田氏ノ觀測判斷ニ從フベキモ  
ノダト考ヘ其ノ求ニ應ジ上海行ニ同意シタ  
四、自分ハ直チニ同行者ノ人選等上海行ノ準備ニ着手スルト同時ニ當時政  
府最高部ノ小數者間ニ定メラレテ居タト聞知シタ解決條件ナルモノニ  
付軍部大臣ノ意嚮ヲ確メ置ク必要アリト思ヒ一日舊知デアル海軍大臣  
ニ面會シテ之ヲ確メタコトガアル、條件ノ詳細ハ今日正確ニ記憶シテ  
居ナイガ海軍大臣ハ何レモ之ヲ肯定シタコトヲ記憶スル、其ノ中今尙

Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs KRESTINSKI on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.

五 準備モ略々整ツタノデ將ニ出發セシムトシテ居ツタコロガ八月下旬  
 ノ某日廣田氏ヨリ出發ヲ一時迄期セラレ度旨ノ話ガアツタ自分ハ其ノ  
 理由ニツイテハ故ヲ深ク問ヒ訊サナカッタガ「一旦決意シテ出發準備  
 モ完了シテ居ルノダカラ此ノママ東京ニブラハシテ居ルノモ面白ク  
 ナイ幸ヒ自分ハ最近ノ北滿洲及華北ノ狀況ヲ知りタイト思ツテ居ル際  
 デアルカラ豫定ノ通り出發シテ之等ノ諸地方ヲ觀察スルコトニシタイ  
 其ノ間ニ東京ノ狀況ガ變化シテ自分ノ上海行ニ故障ガ無イヤウニナツ  
 タラ電報ニテ知ラセテ貰ヘバ出先ヨリ直チニ上海ニ向フコトニスル」  
 ト提案シ廣田氏ノ同意ヲ得タ  
 六 ソコデ八月二十八日東京ヲ出發シ北滿ニ赴キ轉ジテ北京天津等ヲ觀察  
 シテ居タガ其ノ間廣田氏カラ何等通報ニ接シナカッタノデ九月二十一  
 日大連出帆ノ熱河丸デ日本ニ歸ツテ來タ

Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs KRESTINKIN on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.



昭和二十二年（一九四七年）八月二十一日於東京

供 述 者 有 田 八 郎

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シ

マ  
ス

同 日 於東京

立 會 人 守 島 伍 郎

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Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs MESLINSKI on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.

Def, Doc 2150

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Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs KRESTINSKY on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.